

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

HOUSE BILL 2758

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-701, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:
2 Section 1. Section 15-701, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-701. Common school: promotions: requirements: supervision of
5 eighth grades by superintendent of high school
6 district: high school admissions: academic credit

7 A. The state board of education shall:

8 1. Prescribe a minimum course of study, as defined in section 15-101
9 and incorporating the academic standards adopted by the state board of
10 education, to be taught in the common schools.

11 2. Prescribe competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from
12 the eighth grade and competency requirements for the promotion of pupils from
13 the third grade incorporating the academic standards in at least the areas of
14 reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies.

15 3. Distribute guidelines for the school districts to follow in
16 prescribing criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to grade in the
17 common schools. These guidelines shall include recommended procedures for
18 ~~insuring~~ ENSURING that the cultural background of a pupil is taken into
19 consideration when criteria for promotion are being applied.

20 B. Pursuant to the guidelines which the state board of education
21 distributes, the governing board of a school district shall:

22 1. Prescribe curricula that include the academic standards in the
23 required subject areas pursuant to subsection A, paragraph 1 of this section.

24 2. Prescribe criteria for the promotion of pupils from grade to grade
25 in the common schools in the school district. These criteria shall include
26 accomplishment of the academic standards in at least reading, writing,
27 mathematics, science and social studies, as determined by district
28 assessment. Other criteria may include additional measures of academic
29 achievement and attendance.

30 C. The governing board may prescribe the course of study and
31 competency requirements for promotion which are in addition to or higher than
32 the course of study and competency requirements which the state board
33 prescribes.

34 D. A teacher shall determine whether to promote or retain a pupil in
35 grade in a common school as provided in section 15-521, paragraph 3 on the
36 basis of the prescribed criteria. The governing board, if it reviews the
37 decision of a teacher to promote or retain a pupil in grade in a common
38 school as provided in section 15-342, paragraph 11, shall base its decision
39 on the prescribed criteria.

40 E. ~~A governing board may provide and issue certificates of promotion~~
41 ~~to pupils whom it promotes from the eighth grade of a common school. Such~~
42 ~~certificates shall be signed by the principal or superintendent of schools.~~
43 ~~Where there is no principal or superintendent of schools, the certificates~~
44 ~~shall be signed by the teacher of an eighth grade. The certificates shall~~
45 ~~admit the holders to any high school in the state.~~

1 F. A governing board may request certificates of promotion from the
2 county school superintendent. If a governing board requests these
3 certificates from the county school superintendent, the county school
4 superintendent shall furnish and sign the certificates.

5 G. E. Within any high school district or union high school district,
6 the superintendent of the high school district shall supervise the work of
7 the eighth grade of all schools employing no superintendent or principal.

8 H. A school district shall not deny a pupil who is between the ages of
9 sixteen and twenty one years admission to a high school because the pupil
10 does not hold an eighth grade certificate. Governing boards shall establish
11 procedures for determining the admissibility of pupils who are under sixteen
12 years of age and who do not hold eighth grade certificates.

13 I. F. The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow common
14 school pupils who can demonstrate competency in a particular academic course
15 or subject to obtain academic credit for the course or subject without
16 enrolling in the course or subject.